

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12114 311116Z

22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /067 W

----- 088869

R 311029Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7062

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

DIA WASHDC

USDEL SALT II GENEVA

AMEMBSSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPAST

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12114

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT UR

SUBJECT: USTINOV PROMOTED TO MARSHAL

1. USTINOV'S PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF MARSHAL WAS ANNOUNCED TOWARD THE END OF THE 9:00 P.M. TELEVISION NEWS JULY 30, AND IN THE CENTRAL PRESS JULY 31. THE TELEVISION ANNOUNCER READ THE SUPREME SOVIET DECREE AND USTINOV'S BIOGRAPHY WHILE A STILL PICTURE OF USTINOV (IN UNIFORM) WAS SHOWN ON THE SCREEN. MORNING PAPERS FRONT-PAGED THE DECREE AND THE BIOGRAPHY; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA INCLUDED A LARGE PICTURE OF USTINOV. THE BIOGRAPHY LISTED THE MAJOR EVENTS IN USTINOV'S LENGTHY CAREER BUT DID NOT MENTION THAT HIS PROMOTION TO GENERAL OF THE ARMY OCCURRED ONLY THREE MONTHS AGO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 12114 311116Z

2. COMMENT. IT MAY BE SIGNIFICANT THAT USTINOV'S

LATEST PROMOTION WAS ANNOUNCED JUST ONE DAY AFTER PUBLICATION OF BREZHNEV'S "INTERVIEW" WITH A PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT REGARDING THE CSCE FINAL ACT AND WESTERN "INTERFERENCE" IN ITALY, WHICH IS BEING GIVEN MAJOR MEDIA COVERAGE. THIS IS ALSO SOMEWHAT PARALLEL TO USTINOV'S PHYSICALLY RECEIVING HIS PROMOTION TO GENERAL OF THE ARMY AT THE SAME KREMLIN CEREMONY WHERE BREZHNEV WAS GIVEN HIS MARSHAL'S STAR AS CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENSE COUNCIL.

3. BY COINCIDENCE, WE RECENTLY DISCUSSED CURRENT SOVIET POLITICAL-MILITARY RELATIONS WITH DISSIDENT HISTORIAN ROY MEDVEDEV, WHO SAID HE WAS PUZZLED BY BREZHNEV'S RECEIPT OF THE MARSHAL'S RANK BUT SUPPOSED IT REFLECTED A MOVE BY THE BREZHNEV GROUP TO ENSURE CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. MEDVEDEV THOUGHT BREZHNEV AND HIS SUPPORTERS WERE KEENLY AWARE THAT THROUGHOUT SOVIET HISTORY THE MILITARY TENDED TO PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE DURING TIMES OF POLITICAL CRISIS. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WAS UNHAPPY BOTH WITH USTINOV'S APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND WITH BREZHNEV'S NEW MILITARY RANK. (DETAILS BEING REPORTED BY AIRGRAM.) IF MEDVEDEV IS RIGHT -- AND HE INDICATED HE HAD GOOD SOURCES OF INFORMATION -- THE MILITARY CERTAINLY WILL NOT BE PLEASED WITH USTINOV'S ELEVATION TO THE RANK OF MARSHAL. MATLOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CABINET, MILITARY PERSONNEL, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL PROMOTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW12114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760296-0751
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976072/aaaaaaut.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USTINOV PROMOTED TO MARSHAL
TAGS: PINT, UR, (USTINOV, DMITRIY FEDOROVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006